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CUBA'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER CEMA COUNTRIES

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 4, Jan 77 p 20

/Article by A. Bekarevich, section head of the Institute of Latin America of the USSR Academy of Sciences/

/Excerpts/ As noted in the documents of the First Congress of Cuban Communists, cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other member-nations of CEMA is playing an important role in the solution of problems which Cuba faces. "Without the constant, decisive and generous assistance of the Soviet people," emphasized Comrade Fidel Castro at the party congress, our homeland would not have been able to stand its ground in the fight against imperialism."

The party's program platform adopted at the first congress emphasizes that the Communist Party of Cuba will steadfastly continue to implement a policy aimed at expanding and strengthening economic relations with the USSR and the other countries of the socialist community.

The Soviet-Cuban Declaration, which was signed during the 1974 visit of CC CPSU General Secretary L.I. Brezhnev to Cuba, is the fundamental document which at the present time specifies the development of Soviet-Cuban cooperation.

The following data, for example, are an indication of the nature and extent of the economic ties between the USSR and Cuba. During the years 1960-1962 the USSR assisted Cuba in the construction of 17 facilities, while in 1972 this figure had grown to 159 facilities. With the economic, financial and technical assistance of the Soviet Union 239 facilities had been built or reconstructed by the start of 1976; of these facilities 143 had been put into operation.

Enterprises built with the assistance of the USSR provide more than 10 percent of the republic's industrial output, including all of its rolled products, 95 percent of its steel, 50 percent of its mixed fertilizers and 32 percent of its electrical energy.

During the current five-year plan (1976-1980), in accordance with the agreement signed 14 April 1976, there are provisions for the further expansion and intensification of economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the USSR and Cuba in the development of such branches of the economy as electrical power, ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, petroleum processing, the sugar industry, machine building, transportation, the building materials industry, irrigation-reclamation projects, communications. There are also plans to begin the preparation for the construction in Cuba during the next five-year plan of an atomic power plant with a capacity of 440 megawatts and of a metallurgical combine with a capacity of more than 1 million tons of steel per year.

The nickel industry--one of the most important branches of Cuba's economy--is being developed. In accordance with Soviet-Cuban agreements the nickel plants at Nicaro (in the picture) [photo not reproduced] and Moa are being renovated, and a new plant is being built in Punta Gorda. In addition, another plant will be built with the participation of the CEMA member-nations. Upon the completion of all these projects Cuba will be producing more than 130,000 tons of nickel per year. TASS photo.

The Soviet Union, which currently occupies the number one spot in Cuba's foreign trade, was responsible for about half of Cuba's trade turnover in 1975.

"The Soviet Union has granted our people conditions for commercial exchange and long term credits," noted Comrade F. Castro, "which are a genuine model of relations between a large industrial country and a small state."

The rapid growth of reciprocal commercial exchange has come about primarily through an increase in Soviet exports to Cuba; since 1960 they have increased in value nearly 18-fold. In addition to raw materials and fuel, the USSR supplies Cuba with machines and equipment and provides in this connection the necessary technical assistance.

At the same time the Soviet Union receives many Cuban goods. In 1975, for example, the Soviet Union bought from Cuba 2,964,000 tons of raw sugar. Among other goods which Cuba supplies to the USSR there are ores and metal concentrates, citrus fruits, tobacco, etc.

During the current five-year period there are plans to nearly double the trade turnover between the two countries in comparison with the previous five-year period.

Cooperation between Cuba and the other CEMA member nations is also developing successfully. With their assistance more than 80 facilities for the national economy had been built by the end of 1970, and in the following years work was being carried out at 140 other facilities, including the construction of new facilities and the expansion of existing ones.

Bulgaria, for example, has provided assistance to Cuba in the area of agriculture and in the construction of dams and roads; Hungary has assisted with the development of the sugar industry, communications and television. The GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia have supplied Cuba with machines and equipment for a number of industrial enterprises.

Cuba's entry into the ranks of CEMA (1972), as well as into the International Bank of Economic Cooperation and the International Investment Bank (1974) represented a qualitatively new stage in the development of cooperation between Cuba and the fraternal countries of socialism. "Our country's participation in CEMA and in the Complex Program of Socialist Economic Integration," it says in the Program Platform of the Communist Party of Cuba, "opens up prospects for the achievement of an even higher level for the realization of the principle of socialist internationalism in the utilization of the advantages of the socialist division of labor."

In accordance with the decisions of the 26th CEMA session, the CEMA Executive Committee--together with Cuban representatives--while taking into account economic and geographic specifics, defined the republic's role in the general work of CEMA and in the realization of the Complex Program. Areas in which cooperation between the CEMA member nations and their joint efforts would be the most effective were brought out.

The coordinated plan of multi-lateral integration measures of the CEMA member-nations for the years 1976-1980 stipulates, for example, the establishment within Cuba of capacities for the production of nickel-cobalt containing products. At the 29th session of CEMA in 1975 Cuba and the interested European member nations of CEMA signed an agreement regarding assistance to be rendered to the republic for the development of a plan for the construction of a nickel plant with a capacity of 30,000 tons per year. The implementation of this plan through the joint efforts of the interested member-nations of CEMA will enable Cuba to bring nickel production up to 130,000 tons per year, which is a favorable precondition for the future expansion of deliveries of this metal to other countries of the socialist community.

In the presentations at the 30th session of CEMA in Berlin (1976) C.R. Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the CC of the Communist Party of Cuba and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, said: "Cuba's participation in the process of CEMA integration is mutually beneficial if we take into account that the natural and productive resources which exist in our country make it possible even now or in the future to satisfy a portion of the needs of the other CEMA member states for sugar and products derived from sugar cane (cellulose, paper, furfural, proteins) for nickel and other nonferrous metals, and for citrus fruits in both natural and processed form, etc."

As indicated in the Complex Program, the CEMA member-nations consider the coordination of their five-year plans as one of the fundamental methods for the regular development of cooperation and as one of the main methods for the formation of stable and mutually beneficial economic ties between themselves. And Cuba is now participating in the coordination of the five-year plans. The agreements concluded within the CEMA framework regarding assistance in the further development of various branches of the Cuban economy and the measures outlined in the course of coordinating Cuba's five year plan for the years 1976-1980 with the five-year plans of the other CEMA member nations are important new steps on the path of further intensification of cooperation of the fraternal socialist states.

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SOVIET-POLISH COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION MEETS

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 4, Jan 77 p 20

/Text/ The 18th session of the inter-governmental Soviet-Polish Committee on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation took place in Warsaw. The meeting was chaired by K. Olszewski, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland. The Soviet delegation was headed by the deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, M.A. Lesechko.

Additional tasks were defined for the inter-governmental committee in the area of further development of economic cooperation between the USSR and Poland and in the realization of the Complex Program of Socialist Economic Integration in complete accordance with the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the 7th Congress of the Polish United Workers Party. Also specified were the procedure and deadlines for the preparation of concrete questions on the development of the cooperation of specialization in a number of important branches of the national economy and primarily in machine building. A number of industrial ministries were assigned to work out concrete plans and programs for the development of cooperation.

During the discussion of the information of the planning organs of the countries regarding the working out of the basic trends in cooperation for future years (1981-1985) in the field of machine building and other branches of the economy, the attention of the cooperating ministries was directed to the need to concentrate the efforts of both countries on the development of proposals on how to supply the national economies of the USSR and Poland with high-quality and high-productivity machinery and manufacturing lines.

While taking into account the importance of further development in the cooperation between the USSR and Poland in the production of equipment for atomic power plants, the committee listened to information from the appropriate organs of the nations regarding progress in the realization of the inter-governmental agreement on these questions.

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